

QuickSmarts

Crossing the road?



STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, THINK.

Teaching children how to safely walk alongside busy traffic and cross the road helps develop good road safety habits.

The correct crossing procedure

A good way to teach children how to cross the road is by following four simple safety steps

– **STOP, LOOK, LISTEN** and **THINK**.

- **STOP** one step back from the footpath or shoulder of the road if there is no footpath.
- **LOOK** in all directions for approaching traffic.
- **LISTEN** in all directions for approaching traffic.
- **THINK** about whether it is safe to cross the road – when the road is clear or all traffic has stopped.

When crossing, teach children to walk straight across the road and keep **LOOKING** and **LISTENING** for traffic while they cross.

Take care when you cross

Show children the safest places to cross the road. Teach them that whenever possible they should cross at marked pedestrian crossings, traffic signals or where there is a pedestrian refuge, even if that means walking a little bit further down the road.

If there isn't a crossing nearby, show them how to choose a safe place to cross where they can see traffic in all directions and where drivers can see them. Teach them to cross only when the road is clear and it's safe to do so, and to never run across the road.

Using pedestrian crossings

At pedestrian (zebra) crossings teach children to only cross when cars have stopped for them, and at pedestrian traffic lights teach them to only cross when they can see the 'green person' or the green **WALK** sign.

Make sure they know to never cross the road when they see a 'red person' or the red **DON'T WALK** sign, including the flashing red signal; they should only walk when the signal is green and, walk—not run—across the crossing.

Listening is as important as looking

It's as important to hear oncoming traffic as it is to see it coming. Talk to children about the dangers of wearing headphones when crossing the road.

If children want to listen to music while they're walking, encourage them to keep it at a reasonable volume and only use one headphone.

Walking along busy roads and footpaths

Parents and carers should always hold hands with children when they are walking on footpaths alongside the road.

Young children lack the skills, knowledge, and judgement to be able to cope with traffic and therefore need to be constantly supervised – even on familiar roads or when traffic is quiet.

Teach children to always stay on the footpath. When the footpath is busy, don't be tempted to step onto the road to get past people because you're in a hurry, it's very dangerous!

Don't be distracted while walking

There can be lots of distractions when you're walking near a road. Teach children to tuck their phones or mobile devices away when they are out and about – either in their bag or in their pocket. You can easily injure yourself when you walk distracted by bumping into other people, tripping over curbs and uneven surfaces, and even stepping into traffic.

Follow these simple steps to teach your children road safety and help keep them safe.

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